

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Production of New Weapons at  
the Skoda Works, PlzenPLACE  
ACQUIREDDATE OF  
INFO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The prototype department of the Skoda Works at Plzen has been working for the last seven months on a new tank; the designs are expected to be finished in three to four months. Details of this tank are as follows:
  - a. Crew Seven or eight persons.
  - b. Weight 72 tons.
  - c. Engine 1,600 HP air-cooled V-8 Diesel engine, similar in design to the Tatra 111 motorcar engine. The cylinders are separate from each other and are not enclosed in a cylinder block. There are two priming pumps, Skoda design.
  - d. Gears Six-speed gear box which can be used both forward and in reverse; also an overdrive for road work.
  - e. Speed 30 - 35 km. per hour across country.
  - f. Tracks The tank has two sets of tracks, each 48 cm. wide; each set has a separate driving mechanism so that if one set is out of action the tank can continue to operate on the other.
  - g. Hull Manufactured at Uradec Kralove. Front armor is 22 cm. thick, made of six-ply steel held together by welded bolts (the six sheets of steel are not welded together). The front of the hull slopes down into a wedge shape and the front armor plate is 40 cm. high.
  - h. Turret and Armament Double turret, both sections having 360° traverse; made of cast steel. One turret has a 14 cm. gun, the other turret another gun of unknown caliber. One HMG forward and ports for LMGs on the sides. A new recoil reducing gear which greatly reduces the recoil of the guns has been fitted.

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2. Four prototype SP guns on a tracked carriage have been produced and sent to the USSR for testing. The gun is 215 mm. caliber, the piece being 9.5 m long. The gun can be traversed on the carriage.
3. Production has been started of light tanks with a crew of two and similar to the former Czech Kotata light tank but with an improved design.
4. Five hundred casings, 2.5 m. long, for aerial torpedoes have been manufactured. These casings have an outside diameter of 58 cm. The torpedoes are to be filled with an explosive gas which is being manufactured at the Stalin works at Zalusi near Most.
5. The gun department of Skoda has been moved from Plzen to Dubnica nad Vahom in Slovakia.

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